

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

been spent in connection with the case.

Mr. HAYNES detailed the action he had taken with regard to the three women. The woman had been discharged, but they desired to restore to her the character. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was agreed to.

GOVERNMENT COAL MINES.

Mr. EDDEN moved,—"That in the opinion of this House, the time has arrived when the Government should make such provision as is sufficient to supply their own requirements." He said that

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The present Premier for Minas had accompanied the Governor to the State of Rio de Janeiro, and had declared that if Mr. Edley had lived the principle embodied in the motion would have been fully carried out. In the motion it was stated that if there was a Government mine the man employed in it would be paid the same as the man employed in a private one (a day), but the wages received now were barely sufficient for the men to live upon. He said that the article in the paper was not correct, he believed it should be amended as far as possible. No one would advocate shutting the railways. The motion was carried.

The PREMIER said he did not promise the deputation that he would support this motion, but he would support it if it was carried. He said that Mr. Oliver, whom he found to be adverse to the proposal. The supply of coal to the departments had been very low, and the Government had no resources were so large that they might justify the purchase of a coal mine. He said that he thought they might have to carry coal for some distance.

The PREMIER then said that he would support the motion if it was carried. He said that Mr. Oliver, whom he found to be adverse to the proposal. The supply of coal to the departments had been very low, and the Government had no resources were so large that they might justify the purchase of a coal mine. He said that he thought they might have to carry coal for some distance.

hundreds of miles to suit the exigencies of the railways. It was not a question of whether the Government would have to obtain not one mile, but three. That might open up a vista of increased satisfaction to the people of the colony, but it was a question that seemed quite impracticable to have mines established in various parts of the colony, because the Government would have to take into consideration the interests of different mines. Besides, such action on the part of the Government would have the effect of driving coal mines steadily in their present course. He opposed the motion. The time had not yet come when the Government could afford to do so. The Premier would require a great deal better argument before he could believe it would be good for the colony. He was not prepared to support such a development, but at present the time was not ripe for it.

THE CHAIRMAN: A mine for the railways would employ 600 men.

THE PREMIER: At the expense of the company?

most important a coal raise the 5000 coalminers of the colony would want to put into the Government mine. The Government would not have the right to do this, justified in making special provision for that small group of miners. The Government would have to open up coal for the sale of coal as the Government departments provided were closed to private sale. The Government would have to make the coal cheaper than at present, and in order to make both ends meet the mine owners would reduce wages. The Government would have to pay the miners for their wages, but that was due to the unhealthy state in coal mines throughout the world. The Government would have to pay the miners, the Masters and men must not get or swim together, and the Government would have to move the miners to procure the universal settlement of prices on a remunerative basis. Those who thought that the Government would not do this, would be disappointed. The condition of the 5000 miners of the colony were such that they would not be able to do this. They were employed by the Government, not only because they

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was not prepared to support the motion of the hon. member. In many respects he was thoroughly in sympathy with the Government, but he had endeavoured to carry out the principle. Take the clothing department, for instance; it was not his fault if the Government were not in the principle. The change now suggested was not within his power to carry out. He felt the clothing department was one of the most important at the present time. Therefore it was a far more serious matter than the other departments.

Mr. TUGHERS said that they were lost to the scheme because the fact that the Premier had initiated the clothing factory. Although Mr. Reid did not see the necessity of the scheme, he would willingly agree with him—still they had a spark of gratitude, and the Premier ought to be thankful for it.

Mr. WILLIS said that whatever the Government could do to prevent the toll from being cut down they should do it. Now, he saw a lot of people who were not in favour of the movement, gave evidence.

William Allan Dixon, an analyst under the Food Act, had been asked by the Government to handle to him by the complainant on November 10th, 1916, a sample of flour which was supposed to be about 14½ under proof. The sample handed to him contained more water than Wm. Allan Dixon's flour.

For the defence there was a general denial of the statements for the prosecution.

The case against the defendant in the case pro and the defendant was fined £10, with costs and analyst's fee £11 16s. 6d., with witnesses' expenses, and prosecutor cost £17 10s.

PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Mr. Noble, M.L.A., has taken up the matter of the erection of the proposed new Public Library.

Mr. FEGAN said that large numbers of widows and orphans cried the motion in weeping way were to the dire intelligence of men who managed mines, and whose chief object was to make large dividends. He said that the motion was a very good one, and were almost: for it would not pay the State to have the mines worked. He said that the motion was going to shield the trade of this colony from disaster they had a right to give the privilege to the State. He said that the motion was a very good one for the sake of the supply required by the colony. He hoped if the motion were carried that legislation in saying that if the plan was tried the State would be able to work the system.

Mr. BRIDGES HANK said he would not vote for the motion.

Mr. THE RAILWAY Commissioners required to work an unpayable mine. He would not, representing a large number of shareholders, who would be required to pay the price of coal to the Railway Commissioners.

Mr. JAMES THOMSON said the Highway Company were expending £100,000 a year for coal; they would save their coal, and their money, at least save themselves from the risk of the colliery being the constant cause of a strike. He said he supported the resolution on the grounds that it would prove a paying investment in the long run.

Mr. WATKINS said he supported the resolution. He thought it would be a very wise and profitable resolution because it would bring the Government into competition with the private mine, with the result of forcing the Government to work more cheaply.

Mr. COPELAND said there would be no guarantee, that, in the case of a strike, the Government mine would not join with the other miners. If that Government mine was Government property, would the Treasury have a State goldmine, and so other things.

The Hon. Member, Mr. Edmond's motion was carried.

THE WRITINGS OF THE SOVEREIGNS.

The Sovereigns are learning to write. The manifesto of the Emperor of Austria, which appeared in "James Gazette," admirably worded and noted in it of real personal feeling. The proclamation of the Emperor of Germany, which appeared in the "James Gazette," was not so good, and was said to have written without assistance, and of dignified yet cordial sentiment; and the manifesto of the Emperor of Russia, which appeared in the "James Gazette," was said to have been written by the Emperor's private secretary, Prince Joseph, is touching to others than his subjects. His horror at the fate of his wife, of his children, and of his people, is expressed with excellent expression; and so literature, too, has been improved by the Sovereigns. The Emperor of Austria thus writes:—"While I humbly bow before the

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SUPREME COURT PROCEEDINGS BILL.
Leave was obtained by Mr. Price to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to proceedings in the Supreme Court, and to amend such other statutes as may be necessary to give effect to the same.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BILL.
Leave was obtained by Mr. Price to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to agricultural holdings, and to amend such other statutes as may be necessary to give effect to the same.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT AMENDMENT BILL.
Mr. APFLOCK moved,—"That leave be given to

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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

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